Bank Workers Organization has been demanding to establish National Rural Bank of India after merging all those Banks;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a Minister of Himachal Pradesh has sent such a request in the month of Feburary this year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The financial results for the year 2000-2001 indicate that the RRBs are performing well. As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) of the 196 RRBs, 171 RRBs have earned a profit of Rs. 712.34 crores during the year. Of these, 79 RRBs have attained sustainable viability and have built up reserves of Rs. 1232.88 crores while 92 RRBs have attained current viability although they carry accumulated losses.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

Age bar on VRS in SBI

1750. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India stipulated an age bar while granting voluntary retirement unlike all other banks and refused to give Voluntary Retirement Scheme to about 11,000 officers for which there are court cases in all the States;

(b) if so, whether State Bank of India had the permission of Government to stipulate the age bar as also to incur huge expenditure of public money wastefully; and

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take against the State Bank of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was designed with the in-built condition of rightsizing the manpower without affecting the functioning of the banks adversely. Banks were also advised that there is a cost attached to VRS and unnecessarily granting VRS to employees

that were otherwise required would not be prudent. Keeping the above objectives in view, banks have stipulated different eligibility criteria for granting VRS to meet their requirements.

(b) and (c) Bank managements were given the freedom to allow voluntary retirement as per their manpower requirement so that there is optimum utilization of work-force. Some of the banks, including State Bank of India, have restricted the outgo to employees under VRS keeping in view their requirements.

Fiscal Deficit for 2001-2002

1751. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual tax realisations, plan revenue and capital expenditure, and non-plan expenditure during 2000-2001 as compared with the revised estimates published at the time of presentation of the Union Budget in February, 2001;

(b) the estimated final revenue and fiscal deficits as percentage of the GDP during 2000-2001;

(c) tax collections and plan revenue and capital expenditure during April-May, 2001 as compared with April-May, 2000; and

(d) the likely impact of development mentioned in part (a), (b) and (c) above on the fiscal deficit for 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the provisional and unaudited Union Government Accounts released by Controller General of Accounts for 2000-01 the details are as follows:

(*Rs. Crore*)

	2000-01 (Revised Estimates)	2000-01 (Provisional &Unaudited)
Tax revenue (net to Centre)	144403	135193
Plan Expenditure	86238	83468
Of which:		
Revenue Account	53104	53195

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